

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

FILE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 10, 1919.

*File*

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report of conditions in the Park for the month of December, 1918:

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The Yellowstone National Park was set aside by Act of Congress March 1, 1872, (Secs. 2474 and 2475, R.S., 17 Stat., 32) as a pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and placed under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized to make such rules and regulations as he deems necessary for the care and maintenance of the park. It is situated principally in northwestern Wyoming, but laps over a little more than two miles into Montana on the North, and almost two miles into Montana and Idaho on the West. Its dimensions are about 62 miles north and south, and about 54 miles east and west, giving an area of about 3,348 square miles, or 2,142,720 acres. Its altitude is 6,000 to 11,000 feet.

The park was governed by civilian superintendents, assisted by a few scouts, from the time it was set aside until August 10, 1886, when, under authority contained in the Sundry Civil Bill, approved March 3, 1883, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of War detailed troops of United States Cavalry to protect it, the commanding officer acting as park superintendent under the direct orders of the Secretary of the Interior. On October 16, 1916, by mutual agreement of the heads of the Interior and War Departments, the troops were withdrawn from the park, and their work of patrolling and protecting the park was again taken over by civilians selected for the purpose by the Secretary of the Interior. A clause contained in the Sundry Civil Bill approved June 12, 1917, (Public No. 21, 65th Congress) made it



obligatory to use troops for patrolling the park, and they were returned by the War Department on June 26, 1917, relieving the park superintendent of so much of the duties as pertained to "protection". The Sundry Civil Bill, approved July 1, 1918, again made provisions for the employment of a force of civilian rangers to protect the park, and a force of 25 rangers was organized and again took over this work at the end of the 1918 tourist season.

The post of Fort Yellowstone was for the second time formally abandoned at midnight November 1, 1918, and all buildings and improvements passed to the control of the Secretary of the Interior. (See letter dated December 23, 1918, signed by Benedict Crowell, Assistant Secretary of War, to the Secretary of the Interior).

The Act of Congress which appropriated funds for protection of the park, also placed the appropriations for maintenance and improvement under the Secretary of the Interior, instead of under the Secretary of War, as heretofore, and permitted the reorganization of all work under this office, and combining it with the improvement work.

The local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture, is in charge of Mr. G. E. Lawton, Observer. Temperature and precipitation records are also made by the rangers at several of the stations, for the Weather Bureau.

The United States Department of Justice is represented by Mr. John W. Meldrum, United States Commissioner, who is authorized to try all violators of park rules, regulations or laws.

Park Headquarters for all departments and most of the concessioners, is located at Mammoth Hot Springs. A telephone system connects Headquarters with sub-stations. A hydro-electric power plant furnishes the light for buildings and grounds at Headquarters. Water, electric current, and telephone service are furnished other departments of the Government in the park by the National Park Service, without charge. During December the hydro-electric power plant was run daily from 4:00 p.m. until noon, and was continued during the afternoon when any necessity existed for so doing.

#### CONDITIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

The mean temperature was 20.4, which was 1.2 below normal. The



total precipitation according to the weather reports was 0.39 inches of water, which is 1.43 inches less than the normal amount for December. A copy of the Monthly Meteorological Report is enclosed herewith.

#### EMPLOYEES.

The following-named regular employees were carried on the pay-rolls during the month of December:

- 1 Chief Clerk (Acting Superintendent).
- 1 Purchasing Clerk and Special Disbursing Agent.
- 4 Clerks.
- 1 Clerk-Stenographer.
- 1 Civil Engineer.
- 1 Assistant Engineer, 16th to 31st.
- 1 Electrician.
- 1 Storekeeper, 1st to noon 16th.
- 4 Assistant Chief Rangers.
- 6 First-class Park Rangers.
- 14 Park Rangers.
- 2 Linemen.
- 1 Plumber.
- 2 Telephone Switchboard Operators.
- 1 Overseer.
- 3 Foremen.
- 1 Foreman, 1st to 3d.
- 1 Foreman, 1st to 20th.
- 1 Handyman.
- 1 Laborer.

In addition to these, two assistant electricians were employed by the day to assist in operating the power plant, pending certification of eligibles for appointment by the Civil Service Commission, and several carpenters, gas-enginemmen, chauffeurs, etc. were hired under the same conditions, to keep up the work of construction and maintenance at Headquarters and on the Gardiner Slide road.



### Distribution of Rangers.

Assistant Chief Ranger, James McBride (Acting Chief Ranger), was at Crevice Station Dec. 1 to 6 to see that the rangers there were making extra patrols during the hunting season. After that he was at Headquarters but made trips to Crevice, to the West Entrance, and to the Buffalo Farm.

Assistant Chief Ranger James P. Brooks had general charge of the districts covered by Bechler, Snake River, Lake, Canyon, and Sylvan Pass Stations, and made inspections of these stations and patrols between them and to Upper Yellowstone.

Assistant Chief Ranger Charles J. Smith was stationed at Headquarters, in charge of the Chief Ranger's Office while Acting Chief Ranger McBride did the outside work. He also made patrols to the West Entrance, North Entrance, and Soda Butte, with motor-cycle and truck.

Assistant Chief Ranger Harry Trischman assisted at Crevice Station in making the special park line patrols necessitated by the presence of hunting parties near the line to the end of the open season December 15th, and made patrols from Headquarters.

First-Class Park Ranger B. C. Lacombe was stationed in charge at the Buffalo Farm, and had one laborer there to assist him in caring for the buffalo herd. He made extensive patrols in that section, to Slough Creek, Lamar River, Cache Creek, and up Yellowstone River.

First-Class Park Ranger Court B. Dowing was stationed at Gardiner, and made a specialty of hunting and trapping carnivorous animals from Sepulchre Mountain to Blacktail. He caught 14 coyotes during the month.

First-Class Park Ranger Peter Lawson was in charge of Gallatin Station in the northwest corner of the park. Ranger Douglas assisted him at that station. Up to the middle of December, much extra patrolling was necessary along the park line, as several hunting parties were in the adjoining country up to the close of the hunting season in Montana. They did not crowd the park line however, and no violation of law inside of the park was discovered. In one or two cases where parties secured an elk outside, within the law, the rangers permitted them to bring the meat through the park over the road to Bozeman, under their personal supervision. At the end of December, Ranger Lawson took the station horses to the Gallatin Valley, where they have been put out on pasture for the winter. Under this arrangement they can be secured for use at the station in the spring much earlier than they could if we had them brought to Headquarters to winter.

First-Class Park Ranger Thad C. Pound was in charge of Gardiner Station throughout the month. He was assisted by Rangers Dowing and McLaughlin, who did most of the patrolling in the District. It is necessary to have one ranger constantly on duty at Gardiner Station, as there is considerable travel through the gate at all times of the year. Ranger Pound drove a light truck for a



few days, 16th to 21st, hauling hay to his station, making a trip to the West Entrance with supplies, and hauling bait for traps to Blacktail for Ranger Dowling.

First-Class Park Ranger Henry Anderson was in charge of Soda Butte Station throughout the month, and thoroughly patrolled that District. He was assisted there by Ranger Howard. In addition to patrolling, they made a specialty of hunting coyotes in their own District, and as far west as Blacktail Deer Creek.

First-Class Park Ranger Roby Roy Wisdom was in charge of Lake Station, and assisted by Ranger Mazzanovich, was also charged with patrolling the Sylvan Pass, Canyon, and Thumb Districts.

Park Ranger Ford Purdy was in charge of Riverside Station, where he was assisted by Park Ranger Fred J. Townsend. They patrolled a total distance of 440 miles, together, during the month of December, mostly while guarding the west line against hunters on the opposite side of the line.

Park Ranger E.F. Cushman was in charge of Morris Station, and patrolled from there alone.

Park Ranger James H. Dupuis was in charge of Crevice Station, where he was regularly assisted by Ranger Roy T. Frazier. Additional assistance was given this station in making line patrols up to the end of the hunting season, December 15th, by rangers from Gardiner and Headquarters. No evidence was found of any violation of law inside of the park.

Park Ranger Frank J. Winess was in charge of Bechler Station, where he was assisted by Ranger James Russell. The report of these rangers for December has not yet been received.

Park Ranger J.W. Eline was in charge of Snake River Station, where he was assisted by Ranger W.N. Purdue. No reports everything in good condition in that section.

Park Ranger George Winn was in charge of Tower Falls Station, and at present has no assistance. We are wintering our surplus horses at Yanceys, a mile away, however, and have a laborer stationed there taking care of the horses.

The other park rangers are stationed as noted above, namely: Joseph Douglas at Gallatin Station, Roy T. Frazier at Crevice, A. L. McLaughlin at Gardiner, Lawrence Mazzanovich at Lake, and William S. Howard at Soda Butte.

Hunter Steve Elkins worked from Gardiner to Soda Butte, with his trained lion dogs, and succeeded in capturing or killing 7 mountain lions during the month. Two of the kittens captured alive were shipped to Yosemite Park by express, under your direction.



Hunter Robert Harkness worked every day from Headquarters, with a line of traps, and succeeded in capturing 4 coyotes during the month. He claims he killed 3 more which were stolen out of his traps, but as yet this statement has not been confirmed to my satisfaction.

Other permanent employees were on duty at Headquarters, maintaining office and storehouse, shops, telephone lines, power plant, buildings, water and sewer systems, etc.; and others were engaged in engineering, improvement and changing buildings at Headquarters, construction etc., under Civil Engineer Goodwin.

Assistant Engineer John R. Penland occupied quarters and was subsisted at our general mess at Headquarters during the most of the month of December, except for a few days while he was absent at Chico Hot Springs on sick report. Surveyor Joseph E. Zahner was also here, under the same conditions, engaged in engineering work in connection with other parks.

Overseer Evans, and Foremen Farrell, Muse, White, and Enoch, were laid off on account of discontinuing work at end of season, on December 31, Nov.18, Nov.21, Dec.3, and Dec.20, respectively.

Leaves of Absence were granted to regular employees during the month of December as follows:

Storekeeper H.J.Tucker, regular annual leave December 1 to noon Dec.16, inclusive. Indefinite leave of absence without pay beginning noon December 16th.

Foreman Harry McFarland, regular annual leave December 10th to 31st inclusive.

Lineman Hans Larsen from noon December 28th to end of the month.

Appointments: The appointment of Arthur W. Burney, Assistant Engineer, dated December 2, 1916, became effective December 16, 1918.

Vacancies existed in our regular force at the end of December as follows:

- 1 Chief Park Ranger; 5 Park Rangers.
- 1 Assistant Electrician at \$1200 per annum.
- 1 Buffalo Keeper at \$1200 per annum.
- 1 Assistant Buffalo Keeper at \$900 per annum.

During the week December 16th to 23d the Yellowstone Park Branch of the Park County (Montana) Chapter of the American Red Cross was reorganized, with a total membership of 115.



During December employees of the Service on duty in Yellowstone Park purchased War Savings Stamps to the amount of \$203.04

#### ANIMALS, DOMESTIC.

The saddle horses and pack animals used at Bechler Station were taken to winter pasture in that vicinity on December 1st. Those at Gallatin Station at the end of December. All other surplus stock was taken to Yancoys, near Tower Falls, and placed in charge of a laborer who herds them, and corrals and feeds them native hay at night.

#### GRAZING.

At the end of December, there was from 8 inches of snow at Headquarters, to about 16 inches in the southern part of the park. This is an unusually small amount for the end of December, and what there is was light and not drifted, so teams would have but little difficulty in getting over most of the road system, had they any occasion to do so. Our one-ton truck went to Riverside Station on December 19th, and returned the following day, without special difficulty from snow. The result of this mild weather so far as the game is concerned is to keep them inside of the park and in excellent condition, as forage is plentiful and easy to get. The elk and deer are still rather high up, and there is no necessity to feed them under such conditions.

#### FOREST FIRES.

No fires occurred during the month. Special care is taken at Headquarters to prevent the starting of fires in buildings. Authority has been received to employ a nightwatchman to prevent fires in buildings, and a man has been recommended for appointment to fill the position.

#### FISH

All streams that are accessible, except Gardiner River, are pretty well frozen up, and scarcely any fishing was indulged in.

#### MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT.

Aside from the work being done under contract building a road around the Gardiner Slide, and the remodeling of buildings at Headquarters going on under direction of Mr. Goodwin, but little improvement work was done.

Our linemen, with the assistance of one laborer who dug the ditch and refilled it, put in a 10-pair telephone cable between the switchboard office and our main office, to provide for all telephone instruments in the building,



doing away with the necessity for unsightly poles which are more or less in the way in this particular section.

The Electricians were engaged in operating the power plant; the linemen kept the telephone lines in repair and worked on repair of their equipment; and the plumber made repairs to the plumbing when frozen up, turned off water when houses were vacated by employees and turned it on again when the houses were re-occupied; and in addition these employees did considerable work in connection with repairs and maintenance of physical improvements, and work directly connected with the construction of the road around Gardiner Slide, under Mr. Goodwin.

Civil Engineer Goodwin has furnished me with the following notes on work accomplished in the park in the way of improvements and construction under his direction during the month of December:

#### ROADS

In general the only work done on the roads during the month, except by contract, consisted of moving in the camp equipment used on the South Forest road and in completing the river protection work in the East Forest. Some work was also done in making rock revetment protection to the north entrance road.

A small force of men were employed in overhauling and repairing motor trucks, graders and other equipment used on road maintenance and repair work.

North Entrance Road. The contractors, Gibbons & Reid Co., continued work under their contract throughout the month. Their force averaged about 30 men and 4 or 5 teams. They were engaged chiefly in putting in concrete and loose rock revetment walls and in excavation of the road prism. The estimate of the work actually accomplished and put in place was excavation class 1, 2179.1 cu.yds., excavation class 2, 216.1 cu.yds., excavation class 3, 355 cu.yds., excavation class 2 wet 113.7 yds., concrete in revetment wall 104.6 cu.yds., loose load rock wall 30 cu.yds. Total force account work and supplies \$37.96 or a total estimate of \$3940.38. The small amount of the estimate and work accomplished was due to the contractors doing more or less preparatory work which could not be allowed for and also to the fact that they were not prepared to prosecute the concrete work during cold weather. At the end of the month about 2000 lin.ft. of road had been either roughed out or had been excavated to part width by steam shovel.

The necessary engineer and inspection work in connection with the



contract was carried on.

No work was done on either the west entrance road, the south entrance road, the east entrance road, the Cooke City road, the Mammoth-Hot Springs-Morris road, or any of the belt line or double loop roads.

The South Forest Road. The repairs to the piers of the bridge across the Snake River were completed in November and the outfit moved in to Headquarters during the month. There still remains a small amount of work to complete the concreting of the floor of the bridge which could not be done because of the cold weather. The bridge is open to travel as a temporary plank floor is laid.

East Forest Road. One crew of about 20 and 4 teams were engaged from the 1st to the 11th of the month in building a timber crib rock filled wing dam and doing rock revetment work along the road near Holm Lodge. This work was completed on the 11th and the force laid off. Practically all of the revetment and protection work necessary for the road along the North Fork is now done except that at Elk Fork which because of the magnitude of the work and the expense will have to be postponed until subsequent appropriations.

#### Buildings.

During the month a small crew of men varying from 3 to 8 men were engaged in converting one set of double officers quarters into a four-flat house and in making changes in one of the stone stables so that it could be used as a shop and garage building.



### MONIES TRANSMITTED

The usual report of monies collected, due, transmitted etc., together with money orders, checks etc. totaling \$77.70 as called for in the reports, on Forms 10-59 and 10-60, are enclosed herewith. Please acknowledge receipt.

### NATURAL PHENOMENA.

No changes were noted in the natural phenomena of the Park during the month of December.

### TRAVEL CONDITIONS.

Ten people registered at the north entrance during the month, as noted on report of the Chief Ranger on travel for December enclosed herewith. There is but little snow in the park, and travel to most any point would not be difficult. A motor truck went over the road between Mammoth and the West side as late as December 20th.

### VISITORS

The ten people who registered at the Gardiner entrance were mostly people who had occasion to visit Mammoth only, on business.

Special visitors were recorded as follows:

Mr. E. H. Moorman, auditor for the Yellowstone Park Camping Co., on December 9th and 10th.

Mr. H. J. Miller, of Livingston, Montana, December 30 and 31.

Yeoman David McCoy, U.S. Navy, from Philadelphia, December 17 to January 1; and Corpl. Clarence McCoy, Motor Transport Corps, U.S. Army, from Texas December 23 to 29. These young men were home on Christmas vacation, visiting their mother who lives in the park.

### COMPLAINTS

No complaints were received during the month of December.

### WILD ANIMALS

The winter conditions for wild animals in the park remained as



nearly perfect as they could be in winter. Forage is very plentiful, and not enough snow anywhere to hinder the elk, deer, antelope and mountain sheep from getting at it easily. Consequently hardly any game left the park, and on all sides the hunters were quite disappointed. Many of these animals were seen during the month, and in all cases they were reported as being in excellent condition.

Bears. While it was generally supposed that all bears had gone into winter quarters before December, it happened that one small black bear at Lake Outlet was in bad condition, and did not go in at all, and finally died during the month.

Wolves and coyotes: No wolves were killed during the month, though signs of them were found at different points along the north line. Thirty-nine coyotes were killed during the month. In compliance with your instructions, 77 green hides, mostly wolves and coyotes, were shipped on December 30, to Munson Bros., St. Louis, for sale to credit of park funds. Return on same has not yet been received.

Mountain Lions. Steve Elkins was employed throughout the month, with his trained lion dogs, and succeeded in capturing and killing 7 lions in all. Two of these, half-grown kittens, were shipped to the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park by your direction, on January 3d.

Buffalo. No reports were received relative to the wild herd. The tame herd remained in excellent condition, and thus far it has not been necessary to feed any hay, as there is plenty of forage available in the adjoining mountains near the buffalo farm. One bull, probably about 8 years old, was found dead on Cache Creek by Ranger Anderson. The hide and bones were too badly torn up and scattered to be of any value.

#### PROTECTION AND CARE OF GAME.

Special efforts were made by increasing the number of patrols, to protect the elk and deer in the edge of the park on the north and west, from hunting parties close to the line. Hunting parties were rather scarce as compared with ordinary seasons, due to the fact that the weather was too nice to bring the game down to the hunting grounds, and but little meat was taken by hunters. Ranger Lawson, at Gallatin Station, reports to me that in his opinion not more than ten elk were killed by hunters in that section during the open season. He says that the State authorities employed several deputies in that section during the hunting season, and that the game preserve was very carefully guarded and several arrests made for hunting within its limits.



Since the season in Montana has closed, the U. S. Forest Service is employing several extra rangers to protect the game north of the Park and down the Yellowstone Valley, but so far there is but little for them to do, as the most of the animals are still in the park. It is my intention to later offer one or two rangers to assist in this protection work outside of the park, if the elk go out in numbers sufficient to warrant, and we can spare the services of the men to do so.

#### SANITATION AND DISEASE.

No sanitary work was done during the month, except the removal of ashes, waste etc. from the buildings at Headquarters.

The epidemic of Spanish Influenza subsided, and but one or two cases were recorded during the month and none of these resulted seriously.

#### ACCIDENTS, DEATHS etc.

No accidents or deaths were recorded during the month.

#### ARRESTS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW

No arrests were made, and no violations of the law were reported, during December.

#### PROPOSED WORK FOR JANUARY

Continued construction and repair of improvements under Civil Engineer Goodwin, under contract in Gardiner Canyon, and by the day on buildings at Headquarters. Also construction of storehouses for T N T explosive, about a mile inside of the park from the northern entrance.

Maintenance and repair of buildings, water and sewer system, power plant and telephone lines.

Special care of animals, including feeding them if it becomes necessary, and patrols for poachers from all stations.

Putting up ice at Headquarters for winter supply. It is contemplated doing most of this work with services of regular employees.



On December 28th, a moving picture show was held in the Post Exchange at Headquarters, for the general amusement of the winter inhabitants. Similar entertainments will be held once a week, if sufficient funds can be raised to cover the expense.

Late in the afternoon of December 16, a very successful blast which used 3,750 lbs. of Dynamite, was exploded under Mr. Goodwin's direction, in a cliff in Gardiner Canyon, in connection with the construction work at that point.

Very respectfully,

CHESTER A. LINDSLEY,

Acting Superintendent.

Inclosures.